

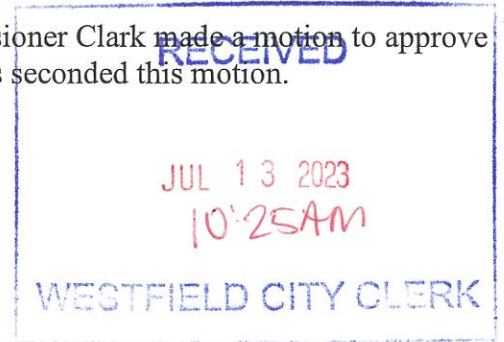
The Westfield Traffic Commission

March 15, 2023

The Westfield Traffic Commission meeting was held on Monday, March 15, 2023 in room 201 @ City Hall, 59 Court St., Westfield, MA.

Roll Call: Comm. McMordie – Present – Acting Comm. Cain – Absent - Comm. Mejias – Present – Comm. Clark – Present – Comm. Gadbois – Present

Approval and Release of Minutes dated January 10, 2023: Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve and release the minutes dated January 10, 2023. Commissioner Gadbois seconded this motion.



Roll Call:

Commissioner McMordie – Yes
Commissioner Clark – Yes
Commissioner Gadbois – Yes
Commissioner Mejias – Yes

OPEN PARTICIPATION – John Keilch of 354 Root Rd addressed the commission. He asked the commission about a guardrail on 354 North Rd. He wanted to know if it would be on the North Rd side or on Root Rd. Commissioner Mejias said this item was dismissed as the resident no longer wishes to go forward with this. He said he recommends putting a flashing “dangerous intersection” sign at this location. There is currently a sign there that says this, but he would like to see it enhanced with the lights. Commissioner Mejias said that she will look into it.

John Keilch said that he saw that at a previous meeting the commission discussed engine breaks on Southampton Rd. He asked if the DOT notified the commission in writing that they would not put a sign up. Commissioner Mejias said she was notified verbally, by the DOT, on more than one occasion that they would not do this. John Keilch is requesting that she gets this in writing and then provides him a copy of it. Commissioner Mejias said she will take care of this.

John Keilch said that the residents of his neighborhood would like to thank the Traffic Commission, Police Department and DPW for all of the work they have done. He said there are no longer arguments with people who are parking on Root Rd. He said there is no longer dumping going on as well. He said the work done was very successful. He said he has seen a proposed increase in the cost to dispose of a mattress. He said he is concerned this will create more dumping within the city.

City Councilor Onyski said he received an unsigned letter from residents on Pumpkin and Sunflower Lane regarding speeding on the roads. They would like to see a no exit sign installed at the end of Morgan Ave to alert drivers that there is no access to another road. They would also like to see speed bumps added. They said there are also properties that are not maintained and other properties that have unregistered and or uninsured vehicles in the yard and driveways. They would like to see this addressed as well. Commissioner Mejias said that the Police Department can address the unregistered vehicles. She said the unmaintained properties can be addressed by the Code Enforcer for the Building Department. She said she will also look into adding a sign to that road.

The Westfield Traffic Commission

March 15, 2023

OLD BUSINESS:

No parking this side of street 8AM – 4PM – West Side/Hamlin Place: Commissioner Mejias said this was tabled at the last meeting so that the commission could look further into it. She suggests no parking on the West side of the street during the hours the school is open. City Councilor Figy said this has been an ongoing issue this year and he appreciates any assistance the commission can provide to the residents. Commissioner Mejias said that the commission did look at other options, but this seems to be the best solution. There were 2 parents whose children attend Fort Meadow School present. One of the parents asked if parking was going to be prohibited on both sides of the street. Commissioner Mejias said it will not be. It will be on the West side only, with parking still allowed on the side of the street that the houses are on. The parents said that one of the residents on that street still complains even if they park on the correct side of the street. Commissioner Mejias said as long as no one parks and blocks a driveway then there are no issues with parking on that side of the street. Commissioner Mejias said if there are any issues during pick up and drop off they can call the Police Department and someone will come to address it. Another parent asked if the commission has any other solutions as to where the parents could park to drop their children off. They were told they could possibly park at Walgreens, but there is not a crossing guard at that school and vehicles do tend to speed. She also said that when she has parked in that parking lot in the past, she was told by a Walgreens employee that it is private parking for employees only. Commissioner Mejias said that the back of Walgreens may be private but she does not believe the front lot is. Commissioner McMordie said that the very front of the Walgreens parking lot is owned by the City of Westfield and parents can park there. Commissioner Clark asked if pick up and drop off can be done in the front of the school. They said that they can, but there is a lot of traffic already and busses. This would only add to the congestion. Commissioner Mejias said there is not enough staffing to add a crossing guard to this crosswalk. She said she will have an officer monitor traffic and speed during pick up and drop off times. She doesn't believe it is a high speed area during those times, but she does think it is more congested. One of the parents said that while speeding isn't a consistent problem, there has been times where she has almost gotten hit and that is what concerns her. Commissioner Mejias said that there is parking on White St and Dubios St. Parking is allowed on staggering sides of Dubios St and is posted accordingly. One of the parents requested that the crosswalk be repainted. Commissioner Mejias said as soon as the weather is better, the DPW will repaint it. Commissioner McMordie noted that Fort Meadow School is set to close soon. This is just a temporary issue for the commission. She said she understands the residents issue about being unable to leave their driveway. She said she thinks no parking on the West side is a good solution and parking on the side streets, while not ideal is safe. Commissioner Clark made a motion to post "No Parking on the West side of Hamlin Place between the hours of 8AM – 4PM." Commissioner McMordie seconded that motion. All in favor.

Traffic light Holyoke Rd @ Springdale - McMahon: Commissioner Mejias said that the commission is still waiting for the study to come back. This item will need to be tabled.

Truck traffic North Rd: Residents Stephen and Courtney Danneker addressed the commission. Stephen Danneker wanted to know what the response was from the trash company located on North Rd. Commissioner Mejias said that they said they would do the best they could to make sure their drivers use the agreed route. Stephen noted that the amount of truck traffic in the morning has improved. Commissioner Mejias said that she did notify the company of that and she was told that they would speak to their drivers about the afternoons as well. She said she does have to wait for the study to be complete before she can move forward with this item. She said the study will be done as soon as the weather improves. From there, she will forward the results to MA DOT and they will decide if it meets the warrants for a truck exclusion. Courtney Danneker asked where

The Westfield Traffic Commission

March 15, 2023

the study will be done. Commissioner Mejias said they haven't decided yet. They try to put it where there is no incline or decline so it can catch the most accurate results. Courtney said she looked into the permits for the trash company and there are no conditions on the permit. It was listed that the operation would not impact the neighborhood. She said it was vague. This permit was from the previous owners and transferred to the new owners in 2018. She said that at that time the City Council said the operations should not affect the neighborhood. She said she feels that has changed. She said at that time the owners had the drivers going in the other direction and the new owners are no longer doing that. She said she feels that if the new owners had told the City Council at the time that they were going to change the traffic pattern for their company it would have raised concern. Commissioner Clark said this is a tough scenario. Commissioner Mejias said the company was doing this as a courtesy and they can't be held to it. Stephen Danneker said engine breaks are also a problem. He asked if a sign can be put up. Commissioner Clark said he wants to do the traffic study first and based on that study the commission will make recommendations. Courtney Danneker said there are trucks from other business' that are traveling on North Rd. She said they are coming from the intersection at North Rd and Southampton Rd. She suggested adding a truck route sign at this location. The other intersection they are using is at Servistar Industrial Way. Commissioner Clark said some of the reason this is happening is due to GPS. Courtney said a sign at this location showing a truck route would be helpful. Commissioner Mejias said that the commission needs to see the results of the study first before they add signs or make any recommendations. Resident John Keilch said that once the signs go up they do show up on the truck routes and it will redirect them. Commissioner Mejias said this only works if they have up to date GPS systems. John Keilch said that he believes adding the truck route signs will help. He said North Rd is a rural minor road. Trucks should not be on there. He said there are other companies on that road that are adding to the traffic. He said there were 31 trucks on North Rd today. Commissioner Mejias told John that if he has further issues with the traffic in his area, he can send her an email and she will look into it and the item can be added to the next agenda. This item will be tabled pending the results of the study.

Court St – Left turn curb cut - McMahon: Commissioner Mejias said that she is still waiting for the results of the study from McMahon. This item will be tabled.

Daylight intersections: Commissioner Mejias said she has been speaking with the Chief about this. They came up with a few intersections. They can further address this as soon as the weather improves. She will set a date to meet with City Councilor Matthews-Kane to go over this in more detail. This item will be tabled.

Lower the speed limits – 2016 Municipal Modernization Act – Allows communities to reduce speed limits to 25 MPH on thickly settled roads and in business districts: City Councilor Figy said he believes any residential neighborhood would be a good candidate for this. He said specifically Ward 2 and Ward 3 are good candidates for this. He said this is a good opportunity. City Councilor Matthews-Kane said she brought this item to the commission. She said in the past you had to wait for there to be an accident before the speed could be reduced, but that now with the 2016 act the city or town can decide where it is necessary. Commissioner Mejias said this item will be discussed further under new business. City Councilor Onyski asked what the criteria is for this. Commissioner Mejias said the commission can implement this on any street, excluding a street that had a previous vote to be a specific speed and they can also not change the speed of a road that is a state highway. Commissioner Gadbois asked if thickly settled roads will be included in this. City Councilor Matthews-Kane said that the 2016 act allows for the speed reduction on thickly settled roads and state roads. Commissioner Mejias said she will have to look into whether the MA DOT would need to approve a change to a state highway. She said this item is going to be discussed again under new business.

The Westfield Traffic Commission

March 15, 2023

Discussion on rotary – Western Ave @ Bates: Commissioner Mejias requested this item be tabled.

NEW BUSINESS:

4 Way stop – E Silver/Lozier/Noble: Commissioner Mejias said that there has been 1 accident in 5 years at this intersection that was caused by someone going through the stop sign. She said most of the crashes at this intersection are from someone stopping at the stop sign and the person behind them hits them. Resident Kimberly Hatch said that is because they are not used to someone stopping there. Commissioner Mejias said the crashes aren't happening because someone is coming West bound from the end of West Silver and hitting someone who does not stop at the stop sign. She said she does not have anything that would warrant a 4 way stop at this location. Kimberly asked if it takes accidents to warrant safety precautions be put into place. She said it's nearly impossible to take a left turn onto East Silver Street from her road due to the traffic not stopping on Noble. She said there are many pedestrians in this neighborhood. She said the current stop sign does not do anything. Commissioner Clark said that if no one is obeying the stop sign now then adding more won't do anything. He said this appears to be an enforcement issue. Kimberly said that adding more stop signs would make all flows of traffic to have stop at that intersection. Commissioner Mejias said she feels this will create more accidents. Commissioner Clark said this intersection isn't even a true 4-way stop. Kimberly asked if a traffic light could be added at this intersection instead. Commissioner Mejias said the data does not support a need for a stop light. Commissioner Clark said stop signs cannot be used to slow traffic. He said that if the residents feel there is an issue at this location at specific times they can call it into the Police Department for enforcement. Commissioner Mejias said she is not saying that people don't roll through this sign. She said she has done enforcement herself at this location. She said she can't have someone there all day to do enforcement. Kimberly said the resolution being presented is enforcement, but it was also stated that there is not enough man power to constantly enforce it. Commissioner Clark said that there are always going to be times where traffic is busier than normal and people will have difficult times pulling out onto roadways. He said this happens to be one of the areas. Kimberly said it's not a traffic issue, it is a safety issue of people not stopping at that stop sign. She asked how often an officer is assigned to this area. Commissioner Mejias said she does not know. She said that within the last year, when she has received a complaint in a certain area, she marks it for all of the officers to know an area that needs enforcement. The officer then documents that he or she did directed patrols at a certain location and all vehicles that were stopped and what action was taken. Kimberly asked if there could be traffic cameras installed at this location. Commissioner Mejias said they are illegal in Massachusetts. Kimberly asked if the commission would consider a flashing stop sign on Noble. Commissioner Mejias said she would do that. She said she will check with the DPW to have this taken care of.

Traffic/Speed – Cleveland/Cycle/E Silver: Commissioner Mejias said she spoke with the Chief and the Mayor. She also spoke with other towns to see how they implanted the 25 MPH in their city. What was recommended was to start with certain streets and see how it goes. She said they decided to start with the streets within the center area of town. Commissioner Clark asked if this will need to be posted on every street. Commissioner Mejias said that they do not. She said they will take down all of the speed signs that show higher speed limits. She said there are signs that came out with this act that will be posted accordingly. The streets that will be changed to 25 MPH are from Cowles Bridge all the way to E. Main St before Mainline Dr and then to the Great River Bridge and Lloyd's Hill. From Cowles Bridge all of the side roads off of Mill St to Tekoa Terrace will also become 25 MPH. This will effect Ward 2 and Ward 3. Kimberly Hatch asked if this effects Cleveland Ave and she also asked about putting speed bumps on Cleveland Ave. She said that lowering the speed limit is good, but if enforcement can't be done it won't do any good. She said she has called the Police Department and Mayor McCabe about the speeding on Cleveland Ave. She said the Mayor spoke with the

The Westfield Traffic Commission

March 15, 2023

employees at Elm Electric. She said most of the speeding right now is coming from the Elm Electric employees and the residents of an apartment building located nearby. She said there has been a small decline in the speeding because Columbia tore down a building on the property and closed off that entrance. She said with the addition of a new business coming on that road, she feels the speeding will only increase as Cleveland Ave will be the access point to this new business. She said this area is used by pedestrians, both the elderly and children who walk to school. The sidewalks are a mess. She said she is fearful that they are going to have safety issues and she does not think adding 25 MPH signs are going to help the situation. Commissioner Mejias said that she spoke with Kimberly previously. Kimberly asked her to do a speed study, which she did. The study did not show that speeding was an issue. Commissioner Mejias said she also had officers do patrol and enforcement on Cleveland Ave. She said she does have the documentation to show, if requested. She said the perception can be very different than what is actually happening. She said that while reducing the speed cannot guarantee everyone will stay at that speed, as the city councilors have said, you hope it brings their speed down. Commissioner Mejias said she can't control the storage unit coming into that neighborhood. Kimberly said she would like to have the commission take preventative measures before the storage unit is built. Commissioner Clark said that is what they are trying to do by reducing the speed limit on that road. Kimberly said if there is no enforcement, then reducing the speed won't help. Commissioner Mejias said she only has so many officers per shift. She said she can't pull officers to do enforcement and not respond to calls for service. Kimberly asked if there are any other tools that can be utilized. Commissioner Mejias said that by reducing the speed, the commission is hoping this will help. Kimberly asked what it would take to have speed bumps put on that road or turn it into a dead end. Commissioner Mejias said they will not turn the road into a dead end. She also said that speed bumps are shied away from because of engineering issues. She said she knows there have been talks about putting in speed bumps, but that is not what the commission is looking into at the moment. She said they have to try 1 option first and see how it works. City Councilor Figy said he has had several meetings with Elm Electric and Columbia Manufacturing and they have agreed to have their employees go to work by way of Lozier Ave and leave through Toledo. The trucks will use South Meadow Street. He feels this will alleviate a lot of the heavy traffic flow on Cleveland Ave. Commissioner Mejias noted that while this makes everyone on Cleveland Ave happy, everyone living on Lozier and Toledo will not be. City Councilor Figy said he understands that. Commissioner Mejias said this only moves the problem. City Councilor Figy said he is trying to spread the traffic out to keep the residents happy. He said that Cleveland is the narrowest street in the neighborhood and it allows parking on both sides. He asked if the Engineering Department knows of any other traffic calming measures. Commissioner Clark said that typically allowing parking on both sides of the street is a good traffic calming measure. He said there is only so much anyone can do to re-route and limit traffic. He said speeding is an issue everywhere. He said there is no way to stop this. He said having neighborhoods where they have residential areas and businesses on the same street can cause speeding issues. He said this is why the commission has come up with the idea of lowering the speed on this road. He said the commission spoke about this at great length to reduce the speed. He said this is the first step along with speaking with the businesses. He said the commission cannot stop traffic completely on any street, but they can find the best solution to work with. Resident Valerie Dupuis asked if the commission would consider no parking on one side of the street. Commissioner Clark said he would suggest they wait. He said parking on both sides of the street is one of the best traffic calming measures. Commissioner McMordie said she thinks if they were to do that, it would be best to stagger no parking on each side in sections. She said she also feels it would be best to wait before the commission looks at that. City Councilor Figy said that some residents need to park on the street. Kimberly Hatch asked if it is standard to not take preventative measures until something happens. Commissioner Clark said the commission is taking preventative measures by reducing the speed limit. He said there are limits to what the commission can do. He said the radar study was done and it came back without showing any significant issues. They are reducing the speed limit to try to calm the speed in the areas of the

The Westfield Traffic Commission

March 15, 2023

city that they feel need it. They are working with the business as well. Kimberly Hatch said this only addresses the current employees. It doesn't address the new business and traffic that will come in. Commissioner Clark said that you can't assume there is going to be a problem, but if there becomes one, the commission will address it at that time. Kimberly said this is already an issue that will be amplified. Commissioner McMordie said if there does become an issue the commission will look into it right away. Commissioner Clark said, looking at studies, the traffic from a storage facility is very low. He said most people just put their stuff in there and then that's it. Kimberly asked if the commission would consider doing another traffic study for a longer period of time. Commissioner Mejias said she is willing to do another study before the storage facility is built and another afterwards and then compare the data. Kimberly asked what would warrant the commission to look into more options. City Councilor Figy said staggering no parking on the road would be a good option. Commissioner McMordie said she thinks that would be a good alternative. Commissioner Mejias said that before the commission would do this, they would have to look at the neighborhood and see how many residents are parking on the street. Kimberly asked why the commission is against speed bumps. Commissioner McMordie said that speed bumps are usually only placed in dense urban areas. They cause a lot of issues with drainage. They cause ice damage in the winter. A speed bump also causes damage to vehicles, specifically to the resident's vehicles who would travel that road daily. She said there are a lot of houses on that road and there would not be a good location to put a speed bump that wouldn't potentially effect a driveway. Kimberly asked if they could do a temporary speed bump. Commissioner McMordie said there could be but there would still be the issue of the residents who have to back in and out of their driveway and would hit the speed bump. Kimberly said she is sure there are locations where it could be placed that would not effect a driveway. Commissioner Clark said the Fire Department also has issues with speed bumps due to safety concerns. He said they can look into the no parking option for the next meeting. Both Kimberly and Valerie said they do not feel that would help. Kimberly said that there are a lot of pedestrians on that road and the sidewalks are bad. Commissioner Mejias said that the Traffic Commission does not have any control over the sidewalks. Kimberly asked what else can be done if the speed study shows that there is a speeding problem. Commissioner Mejias said if she finds there is an issue, she will increase the radar patrols to this neighborhood. Kimberly said she can provide video footage. Commissioner Mejias said all she needs is for Kimberly to email her the specific times of the day that she sees the most violations taking place. There was also a suggestion to add a speed cushion in this area, if in fact the study shows the need. The commission agreed to start with the speed study and then go from there. Commissioner Clark made a motion to reduce the speed limit to 25 MPH on the following streets, per Commissioner Mejias' list:

ALICE BURKE AVENUE, ALICE STREET, ALLEN AVENUE, ARNOLD STREET, ASHELY STREET, AVERY STREET, BARTLETT STREET, BATES STREET, BECKWITH AVENUE, BELMONT STREET, BELVEDERE GARDENS, BENHAM STREET, BERKSHIRE DRIVE, BIRGE AVENUE, BLISS STREET, BOWDOIN STREET, BROOKLINE AVENUE, BUSH STREET, BUTLER STREET, CARROLL DRIVE, CASIMIR STREET, CENTRAL STREET, CHAPEL STREET, CHARLES STREET, CHERRY STREET, CHESTNUT STREET, CHURCH STREET, CLAREMONT STREET, CLARK STREET, CLEVELAND AVENUE, CLINTON AVENUE, COLEMAN AVENUE, CONGRESS STREET, CONNER AVENUE, COOLIDGE AVENUE, CORTEZ STREET, COURT STREET, COWLES COURT, CRANE AVENUE, CROSS STREET, CYCLE STREET, DANA STREET, DANEK DRIVE, DAY AVENUE, DEWEY AVENUE, DUANE STREET, DUBOIS STREET, DUDLEY AVENUE, DWIGHT STREET, DZURIS AVENUE, EAST SILVER STREET, EAST BARTLETT STREET, ELLIS STREET, ELLSWORTH STREET, EMERY STREET, EXCHANGE STREET, FAIRFIELD AVENUE, FAIRVIEW STREET, FLORAL AVENUE, FORD AVENUE, FOWLER AVENUE, FOWLER STREET, FRANKLIN AVENUE, FRANKLIN STREET, FREDERICK STREET, FREE STREET, FREEMONT STREET, GEORGE STREET, GILLET

The Westfield Traffic Commission

March 15, 2023

AVENUE, GOLD STREET, GRAND STREET, GREEN AVENUE, GREYLOCK STREET, HAMILTON WAY, HAMLIN PLACE, HAMPDEN STREET, HANCOCK STREET, HANOVER STREET, HAROLD AVENUE, HARRISON AVENUE, HASSLER STREET, HAYRE STREET, HEDGES AVENUE, HIGH STREET, HIGHLAND AVENUE, HIGHLAND VIEW STREET, HOLCOMB STREET, HOLLAND AVENUE, HOWARD STREET, HUBBARD STREET, JEFFERSON AVENUE, JEFFERSON STREET, KASPER DRIVE, KELLOGG STREET, KELSEY TERRACE, KENWOOD STREET, KING AVE, KING PLACE, KING STREET, KING STREET EXTENTION, LAFLIN STREET, LAWTON STREET, LEONARD AVENUE, LEWIS STREET, LINCOLN STREET, LINDBERGH BOULEVARD, LINDEN AVENUE, LITTLES COURT, LIVINGSTONE AVENUE, LOGAN AVENUE, LOIS STREET, LOOMIS AVENUE, LOZIER AVENUE, MADISON STREET, MAIN STREET, MALONE AVENUE, MAPLE COURT, MAPLE STREET, MAPLE TERRACE, MAPLEWOOD AVENUE, MARGERIE STREET, MATHER STREET, MAY STREET, MCKINLEY TERRACE, MEADOW STREET, MECHANIC STREET, MILL STREET, MILLER STREET, MONROE STREET, MORRIS AVENUE, MORRIS STREET, MORSE AVENUE, MURPHY CIRCLE, MYRTLE AVENUE, NOBLE AVENUE, NOBLE STREET, NORTH CHERRY STREET, OAK AVENUE, OAK AVENUE EXTENSION, OAK STREET, OAK TERRACE, OLD TOWN FORDWAY, ORANGE STREET, OTIS STREET, PALMAR AVENUE, PAPER STREET, PARK STREET, PARKSIDE AVENUE, PEARL STREET, PERKINS STREET, PHELPS AVENUE, PLEASANT STREET, PONDER'S HOLLOW ROAD, PROVIN TERRACE, PUTNAM DRIVE, RIDGEWAY STREET, RIVERSIDE DRIVE, SACKETT STREET, SCHOOL STREET, SHELDON AVENUE, SHEPARD STREET, SHERMAN STREET, SHERMAN STREET EXTENSION, SIBLEY AVENUE, SMITH AVENUE, SOUTH ASHLEY STREET, SOUTH BROAD STREET, SOUTH MAPLE STREET, SOUTH MEADOW ROAD, SOUTH STREET, SPRING STREET, SQUAWFIELD ROAD ST, DENNIS STREET, ST JAMES AVENUE, ST PAUL STREET, STATE STREET, STERLING STREET, STRATFIELD AVENUE, SUMMER STREET, SYCAMORE STREET, TAYLOR AVENUE, THOMAS STREET, TOLEDO AVENUE, UNION AVENUE (up to south side of bridge), VADNAIS STREET, WALNUT STREET, WASHINGTON STREET, WEBSTER AVENUE, WEST GATE AVENUE, WEST SCHOOL STREET, WEST SILVER STREET, WEST STREET, WHITE AVENUE, WHITE STREET, WILLIAM STREET, WILLIAMS RIDING WAY, WILSON AVENUE, WOODBRIDGE LANE, WOODLAND AVENUE, WORONOCO AVENUE, and YALE STREET

Commissioner Gadbois seconded that motion. All in favor.

RRFB/Mid-Block on Franklin @ Maple St: Commissioner Mejias said this was discussed at that last meeting. Commissioner McMordie said this is already under contract. This item can be removed from the agenda.

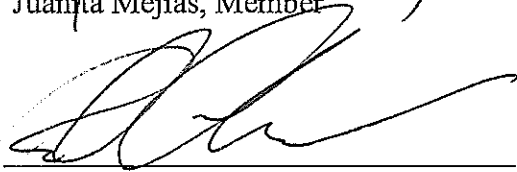
The Westfield Traffic Commission

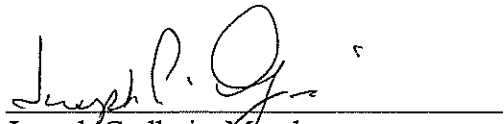
March 15, 2023

Next Meeting – June 21, 2023

At 8:08 PM Commissioner Clark made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Gadbois seconded the motion. All in favor.


Juanita Mejias, Member


Richard Clark, Member


Joseph Gadbois, Member


Allison McMordie, Member

APPROVED FOR RELEASE ON